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CONSTITUTION

AND

BY-LAWS

OF THE

Philalatheian Society.

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HISTORICAL.

The Philalatheian Society was founded in October, 1868, soon after the opening of the University. The date of its existence is thus closely identified with that of our Alma Mater.

During the first college year its meetings were held at Cascadilla Place. Afterward they were held for a time at Deming Hall. The Society continued to gradually increase in strength and membership, and at the close of the second year ('69–'70) it was enabled, through the munificence of President White and the contributions of its members, to furnish, in connection with the Irving Literary Society and the Christian Association, a large hall in the North University building. "This Hall," said President White, "will become a permanent home for the three societies," and on the evening of June 7th, 1870, in behalf of the University authorities, he duly transferred it to their control.

The Philalatheian Society became chartered in May, 1871.

CONSTITUTION.

PREAMBLE.

We, the undersigned, students of THE CORNELL UNIVERSITY, to promote general information, and to improve ourselves in the practice of public speaking, do agree to abide by and sustain the following Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

This organization shall be called the PHILALATHEIAN SOCIETY.

ARTICLE II.

MEMBERS.

SECTION 1. The Society shall consist of *active*, *retired* and *honorary* members.

§ 2. Any resident student of The Cornell University may become an *active* member upon election by a two-thirds' vote of the members present at any regular meeting, and the payment of initiation fee and term dues.

§ 3. Any active member, not in debt to the Society, disconnecting himself from the University, shall hereby become a retired member, and while such shall not be required to pay Society dues. But if he reënter the University he shall again become an active member of this Society.

§ 4. Any person not a student of The Cornell University may become an honorary member by election by a three-fourths' vote of the members present at any regular meeting.

ARTICLE III.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES.—THEIR NUMBERS AND DUTIES.

SECTION 1. The officers of this Society shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

§ 2. The officers of this Society shall constitute a Board of Managers.

§ 3. The duties of the President, Vice-President and Secretary shall consist of such general duties as are laid down in Cushing's Manual, and such special duties as the Society may from time to time impose on them.

§ 4. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive and disburse all monies of the Society; to keep an accurate account with each individual member; to make a report of the financial condition of the Society at the end of his term of office; and to perform such other duties as the Society may from time to time direct.

§ 5. It shall be the duty of the Board of Managers to have general care and oversight of all property belonging to the Society, and to perform such other duties as the Society may from time to time direct.

§ 6. There shall be standing committees on finance, membership, and questions, consisting of three members each.

§ 7. The Committee on Finance shall audit all bills referred to it, and report thereon.

§ 8. The Committee on Membership shall make personal inquiry into the fitness of all applicants for active membership, who may be referred to it, and report thereon.

§ 9. The Committee on Questions shall report suitable questions for discussion.

ARTICLE IV.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. The officers of this Society shall be elected by ballot, at the last regular meeting of each term; and a majority of all votes cast shall be necessary to a choice.

ARTICLE V.

DISCIPLINE.

SECTION 1. Any member of this Society may be fined, suspended or expelled by a two thirds' vote of the members pres-

ent at any regular meeting; but charges must be preferred one week previous, and opportunity must be given to the member to appear in his own defense.

§ 2. Any officer of this Society may be impeached and tried, under the same restrictions as are provided in section one.

ARTICLE VI.

AMENDMENTS.

Amendments may be made to this Constitution by a two-thirds' vote of the members present at any regular meeting: *provided*, such amendments shall have been referred to a special committee, at least two weeks previous to the time of action thereon.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

MEETINGS.

SECTION 1. The regular meetings of this Society shall take place upon the evening of each Saturday of the academic year.

§ 2. Special meetings shall be called by the President and Secretary upon request of five members.

ARTICLE II.

QUORUM.

Twelve active members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; and if at any time the number of active members shall be less than eighteen, then two-thirds of all the active members of the Society shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

ARTICLE III.

FEES AND TAXES.

SECTION 1. The initiation fee shall be one dollar.

§ 2. Each active member shall pay a term-tax of fifty cents.

§ 3. An additional tax may be levied by a two-thirds' vote of the members present at any regular meeting.

§ 4. The Secretary shall furnish, in writing, the names of all new members, to the Treasurer, who, after collecting dues, shall return to the Secretary for enrollment.

§ 5. Any member entering during the first half of the term shall pay full term dues, and those entering during the last half of the term shall pay one-half of the term dues.

§ 6. The Treasurer, at the meeting nearest to the middle of each trimester, shall report to the Society the names of all members who have failed to pay their dues, and such members shall cease to hold the right of suffrage in the society till all dues are paid. The names of those members who have paid their dues shall also be read before the society, and the names of those who have not shall be re-read from time to time as the Society may direct.

ARTICLE IV.

LITERARY EXERCISES.

SECTION 1. The Literary Exercises of this Society shall consist of Chronicles, Orations and Debates, which shall take place in the order named.

§ 2. At every regular meeting, the President shall appoint a Chronicler, Orator and four Debaters, two upon each side, who shall perform their duties two weeks from date of appointment.

§ 3. Questions for debate shall be chosen by the Society two weeks previous to their discussion.

§ 4. Appointed disputants shall be allowed to speak twelve minutes each ; volunteers, eight minutes.

ARTICLE V.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The Order of Business shall be as follows :—

Reading of Minutes,
Regular Business,
Reports of Officers and Committees,
Unfinished Business,
New Business.

ARTICLE VI.

RULES AND ORDERS.

SECTION 1. Motions, to lay on the table, for the previous question, and to adjourn, shall be decided without debate.

§ 2. "Cushing's Manual" shall be the guide of this Society in all matters of parliamentary practice.

ARTICLE VII.

SUSPENSION AND AMENDMENTS.

SECTION 1. Any By-Law may be suspended by a two-third's vote of the members present at any regular meeting; but for one evening only.

§ 2. Any addition or amendment to these By-Laws shall require a two-thirds' vote of the members present at any regular meeting.

RULES.

The following rules of most frequent use have been taken from "Cushing's Parliamentary Practice," which authority has been adopted to govern the action of this Society. A slight modification has been made in some rules to better adapt them to our use.

MOTIONS.

When a question is under debate no motion shall be received, except

1. To adjourn;
2. To lay on the table;
3. For the previous question;
4. To postpone to a day certain;
5. To commit;
6. To amend;
7. To postpone indefinitely;

which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are named.

Adjournment is a privileged question, and is always in order when no person has the floor; except, if once negatived, it cannot be made again until after the transaction of some further business.

The motions to lay on the table, and for the previous question, do not usually admit of amendment or debate.*

If the motion is simply "to adjourn," according to the rules of most legislative bodies in this country, it must be put without debate or amendment; but if to the motion to adjourn there is added a time or place, it may be debated and amended like any other question.

A motion for the *previous question* is used in this country to suppress debate on a principal question, when further discussion seems improper or unnecessary. It is given in this form: "*Shall the main question be now put?*" If decided in the affirmative that question is to be put immediately, without any further debate, and in the form in which it then exists.

The operation of a negative decision is different in different assemblies. The following is the practice of the New York Assembly, and we establish it as our rule: A negative decision of the previous question shall leave the main question under debate, as it was before that motion was made.

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* "Where there is no rule to the contrary, ALL questions are debatable" —CUSHING'S MANUAL, § 209, ¶ 330.

A motion, when regularly made, seconded, and announced from the chair, is then in the possession of the Society, and cannot be withdrawn or modified by the mover, if objection is made, except by leave of the Society obtained by a motion and vote in the usual way.

COMMITTEES.

Committees are of two kinds, *Select* and *Standiug.* Select Committees are charged with some special matter which they are to consider, either with or without previous instruction, and to report thereon when the business is finished, or at a time specified. Standing Committees have in charge general business, and report thereon from time to time as they may be required.

Reports of Committees must be in writing. When called upon to make a report, the Chairman of the Committee, or the member appointed for the purpose, rising in his place, reads the report, which may then be received by the Society without a motion if not objected to; but if objection is made, a motion is necessary. When received, the report must be handed to the Secretary at the table; it then lies on the table until taken up for consideration. The Presiding Officer may, and should decline receiving, without a motion and vote, any report in which informality is evident, or which is deficient in a careful consideration of the business assigned to the Committee.

The Report of a Select Committee being received, either with or without a motion, the Committee is disolved, and can act no more without a new power.

When the final Report of a Standing Committee is made and received, that committee also is dissolved.

MEMBERS.

L. H. Barnum, . . .	President.
A. H. Sewell, . . .	Vice-President.
S. Smith, . . .	Treasurer.
E. G. Donaldson, . . .	Secretary.

R. G. H. Speed,
S. F. Huntley,
R. O. Kellogg,
S. F. Belknap,
P. C. J. DeAngelis,
C. A. Storke,
T. S. Woodruff,
D. H. McMillan,
A. P. Houghtaling,
J. G. Newkirk,
T. Sanderson,
D. E. Kohler,
R. H. Lockwood,
G. C. Morehouse,
Andrew Pelachin,
E. E. Quinlan,
D. W. Rhodes,
T. J. McConnon,
M. Brokaw,
H. Farquhar,
E. E. McElroy,
I. L. N. Heroy,
J. C. Hendrix,
C. Finster,
W. H. Smith,
C. B. Bradley,
R. Leavitt,
D. S. Jordan,
G. A. Benton,
W. S. Barnard,
J. L. Maxwell,
O. F. Williams,
C. F. Hendryx,
C. H. DuBois,
G. R. Jones,
C. E. Reeves,
E. O'Garro,
W. C. Albro,
Edward Everett,
C. D. Page,
G. W. Crafts,
E. D. Jackson,
K. T. Friend,
E. Nicholl,
J. W. Ritch,
I. E. Clark,
J. D. Griffiths,
M. Conklin,
M. B. Anderson,
E. M. Howard,
M. C. Johnston,
E. P. McLean.

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